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THE AUTOGRAPH.

VOL. I. NEBRASKA CITY, NEB., JANUARY, 1888. No. 7.

HARD NUTS TO CRACK.

From the youth who feels elated over the possession of the signature of a celebrity, and whose ambition is satisfied with the mere name of a distinguished man or woman in original chirography, to one a little further advanced in years and experience who realizes that there is actually no value to a signature when compared to a letter, oftentimes expressive of some facts having an interesting relation to the public or private life of the writer; then the more advanced collector whose attention is devoted by purchase, exchange, or otherwise to a certain series of rare letters and others of a decided worldly prominence in its past history; and last and foremost those of the autographic fraternity, who through the means of a fabulous outlay of money and searching travel devoted to its interests, have gathered together a representation of autograph letters, documents, etc., of the world's most famous characters, in value and variety not excelled by the great museums of any nation. Such are the few stepping stones in the autographic field.

The number of those who urged on by the natural enthusiasm of youth to the novelty of the "craze," "hobby," "instructive pursuit"—call it what you may—of the boyish gathering of signatures, is legion; the country swarms with such; but Time is the means of checking many of these, for, in view of various reasons, as the collector progresses in his work, he finds that many who started at his side have fallen out, some for lack of interest or time, as the case may be, others whose mental inability offers its own discouragement. These circumstances place by far the larger number of collectors in the first or lower rank, while the higher the rank or position in the autographic arena, the fewer the contestants for first place: a natural fact exemplified in every pursuit in life.

So it is seen that where there are thousands gathering signatures and unimportant notes or letters of celebrities a large proportion of which are written by persons of more or less local repute, there are only hundreds who find themselves among the higher class of collectors; notwithstanding this fact, those uninformed and disinterested on the subject little realize the army of ladies and gentlemen who to-day are actively engaged in collecting letters, all of which are of special value. It is a fact conceded by many people whose position in life place them as authorities, that a collection of autograph letters and documents stands in a place of its own today; as regards general interest and increasing value, unequalled. To the few stepping stones in the collector's life and experience I would in response to repeated requests give attention to the form of an equal number of letters, devoting this immediate one to the first or largest class.

The first resort of the beginner is to either address a request by mail to the "victim" or make personal application. A word about those whose autographs are almost if not entirely impossible to obtain by personal application may be as interesting as any of the many phases of this part of the collectors experience, but space forbids dwelling in full. There are men living to-day whose autographs are as difficult to obtain at a personal solicitation, as they will be after their decease, truly they are hard nuts to crack. As all the boys and girls who have tried well know that conspicuous among them is the actor Lester Wallack; popular he is before the footlights and sociable and approachable as he is among his numerous friends and admirers, when he is in the presence of an autograph collector he is a changed man. "For obvious reasons I made up my mind several years ago not to give my autograph to any one under any circumstances," is his reply and never since then is it known that he has set aside in a single case his determination. Though his signature can easily be obtained for about twenty cents, it cannot be gotten in any way known to "old hands at the trade" direct from the actor as an autograph.

Another difficult one to procure directly is that of Capt. John Erickson, the famous inventor of the Monitor, who to-day lives in retirement in New York City. "Capt. Erickson has not given his autograph in twelve years," says his polite secretary, Mr. Phillips. A young lady of wealth coming from England for the purpose of having him write his name in her book containing the signatures of the crowned heads of Europe, was one among many, who having resorted to all manner of devices, gave up in despair. The writer's several attempts during interviews with Herbert Spencer, the great Englishman, proved absolutely useless. Once only did he write his name as an autograph while in this country, and that only after continued urging by the little daughter of a prominent American friend. Hard nuts to crack. Others that are equally difficult to procure. Without question, these three mentioned stand unequaled as being the most inapproachable on this subject, it being regarded as an utter impossibility to meet with success.

This may prove of a little value to some collector. Try your own hand and compare notes.

E. F. GLADWIN.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

The following letter of Abraham Lincoln is without a doubt the finest specimen of this rare name extant. This letter is in the possession of Mr. Geo. N. Groat, finely preserved and covering two full pages of foolscap.

Springfield, Ill., April 6th, 1859

Gentlemen:—

Your kind note, inviting me to attend a festival at Boston, on the 13th instant, in honor of the birthday of Thos. Jefferson, was duly received. My engagements are such that I cannot attend. Bearing in mind that about seventy years ago two great political parties were first formed in this country; that Thos. Jefferson was the head of one of them and Boston the headquarters of the other, it is both curious and interesting that those supposed to descend politically from the party opposed to Jefferson, should now be celebrating his birthday in their own original seat of empire, while those claiming political descent from him have nearly ceased to speak his name everywhere.

Remembering, too, that the Jefferson party was formed upon its supposed superior devotion to the personal rights of men, holding the rights of property to be secondary only, and greatly inferior, and then assuming the so called Democracy of to-day are the Jefferson, and their opponents the anti-Jefferson parties, it will be equally interesting to note how completely the two have changed ground as to the principle upon which they were originally divided.

The Democracy of the day hold the liberty of one man to be absolutely nothing, when in conflict with another man's right of property. Republicans, on the contrary, are for both the man and the dollar, but in case of a conflict the man before the dollar.

I remember being once much amused at seeing two partially intoxicated men engaged in a fight with great coats on, which fight, after a long and rather harmless contest, ended in each having fought himself out of his own coat and into that of the other. If the two leading parties of this day are really identical with the two in the days of Jefferson and Adams, they have performed the same feat as the two drunken men.

But, soberly, it is now no child's play to save the principles of Jefferson from total overthrow in this nation.

One would state with great confidence that he could teach any sane child that the simple propositions of Euclid were true; but, nevertheless, he would fail, with one who would deny the definitions and axioms. The principles of Jefferson are the definitions and axioms of free society, and yet they are denied and evaded, with no small show of success.—One dashingly calls them "glittering generalities;" another bluntly styles them "self-evident lies," and others insiduously argue that they apply only to "superior races." These expressions differing in form, are identical in object and effect—the supplanting the principles of free government, and restoring those of classification, cast, and legitimacy.

They would delight a convocation of crowned heads plotting against the people; they are the vanguard, the sappers and miners of returning despotism. We must repulse them, or they will subjugate us.

This is a world of compensations; and he who would be no slave must have no slave. Those who deny freedom to others, deserve it not for themselves; and under a just God cannot long retain it.

All honor to Jefferson, the man, who, in the concrete pressure of a struggle for national independence by a single people, had the coolness, forecast aup capacity to introduce into a merely revolutionary document an abstract truth, applicable to all men and all times, and so to embalm it there that to-day and in all coming days it shall be a rebuke and a stumbling block to the harbingers of reappearing tyranny and oppression.

Your obedient servant,

A. LINCOLN.

To Messrs H. L. Pierce and others.

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Mr. Arthur Levy, 391 Pleasant Avenue, New York City, is authorized to receive subscriptions and advertisements for THE AUTGRAPH.

EDITORIAL

To the editors who have been so kind heretofore in sending two copies of their papers, in exchange, we desire to say that hereafter one copy will be sufficient.

We understand that John K. Tiffany's new book, "History of the Postage Stamps of the United States," is now ready for delivery. If the many laudatory editorials in the philatelic papers are a criterion, it certainly must be the most pretentious philatelic work this country has seen lately.

The Autograph firm of W. E. Benjamin & Co. has been disolved, Mr. Wm. E. Benjamin retiring permanently from the business.

Will the person who sent us 25c. for a subscription from Salem, Mass. make himself or herself known?

They forgot to sign their name.

The voting for portraits seems to meet with hearty favor and the result is beyond our expectations. We hope to publish the result in the next issue.

Collectors who desire to dispose of their collections should not forget that we do a large commission business and have every facility for ready sales and good prices.

The article of Mr. F. D. Andrews, in the last issue, is one that collectors would do well to paste in their scrap books. It is a good defense (if we need any) and will silence both scoff and scorn.

The desk in the Senate chamber which was so long occupied by Roscoe Conkling will be occupied by William E. Chandler during the present session.

George Bancroft, the historian, is said to regard the writing of 250 words as a good day's work; Mr Blaine made 1500 his stint when writing his recollection, and Admiral Porter dashes off 2500 as rapidly as a poet writing under inspiration.

"Adonis" Dixey says, he "never was born, he was quarried."

Dr Tanner, a belligerent home-ruler created a sensation in the house of commons recently by requesting Mr. W. H Smith to ask the poet laureate to write an ode on the coercion bill

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Dec. 6th, 1887.

Mr S. H. Calhoun, Jr.,

Dr. Sir:—

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NOTED AUTHORS' HARD FISTS.

Happening to call on Mr. B. J. Farjeon, the author of "The Tragedy of Featherstone"—a most admirable romance, by the way—I found him seated at his type-wrier and gaily rattling off another novel, just as if he were playing the accompaniment to a comic song. The conversation turned upon the blessing this instrument must be to printers—in delivering them from the miserable scrawls they receive from most authors. If buding writers were only to use the type-writer they would have a much better chance of having their productions accepted than when sent in manuscript. Mr. W. S .Gilbert, before he achieved fame—long before the "Mikado" and "Pinafore" days—used always to send his plays to managers printed. If aspirants to literary honors only knew the loathing with which managers and editors ever look upon even the most neatly written manuscript, they would follow this most excellent example. A new form of annual was recently proposed. It was that of a story by eminent authors. Each was to write a page, which was to be produced in fac-simile. The idea was abandoned because it was found that many of the pages would be utterly illegible, and some would only contain twenty words; others would comprise as much as a newspaper column. It is a strange thing that literary men—whose written is meant to be read—should in the majority of cases, write so badly. It often arises from their having so much work to do that the handwriting becomes spoiled. I have had letters from editors containing important instructions, but the especial point in these instructions, I have failed to discover on account of the writing being absolutely illegible. Dickens wrote a good, bold hand, but not always easy to read. Thackeray was clear, but painfully minute. The best calligraphy of a literary man I have ever seen is that of Mr. George Augustus Sala, I have some letters of his that are perfect marvels of neatness and clearness. The worst I can remember is that of tae late Walter Thornbury. I once had a letter from him asking me to dine with him at a certain place, to meet a person on a given date, for an especial purpose—but I was totally unable to discover whom I was to meet or why I was to meet him, or when or where I was to dine. Thornbury was a terror to compositors. Though they had extra pay for setting up his manuscript, it is on record that the work so disheartened them that they would go away at dinner-time and frequently would not return to their work for a dav or two. I would gladly use the type-writer myself, but find it impossible to achieve the same speed as with the pen.—BOOK BUYER.

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VOL. 1. NEBRASKA CITY NEBRASKA, FEBRUARY, 1888. NO. 8.

AUTOGRAPHS

Names are
Echoes of great events—challenge notes
Of retiring armies, glorified by victory.
The roll-call of soldiers who fought,
And died to crown the world
With immortal triumph.

And here are those who fell
Storming the grim dark holds of evil
In their awful power.

And others that glitter as the
Central jewel in a royal diadem,
Priceless—peerless.

Anon we pause o'er
The cramped cypher of a hand
Whose deeds and words glisten
In the record of the age,
Like a solitary star in a rift cloud
Of night's deep blackness.
And the fierce rage of human cruelty
Paled before their rising glory!

And here are words, that like
Whispered cadence breathed in mortal ears
Midst the soul's thrall—a celestial
Lullaby!—Like distant thunder, that
Doth proclaim the coming tempest:
The upheaval from castellated cells
And made enthroned tyrants tremble.

And here, too, are names of vast renown,
The martyrs fallen in ensanguined fields,
Dying in the struggle for Truth and Right.
Brave warriors! whose blood
Consecrates the torch borne aloft to-day
By liberty's fair hand, whose flame
Enlightens the nations of the world.
Hallowed names, that shine in human
History, cherished in all hearts with
Love's tender reverence and pity—the
Saviour Heroes of the race.

Aye! great names, and good
As great. And we halt in the world's march,
Not sorrowing, as before their tombs, and
Buried ashes; but honoring their
Deathless memories. Grand Heroes!
Who, while the race shall live, will
Reign immortal and supreme, till
The last page of the world's
History is written.

---Rev. Edward F. Strickland.



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SUPPLEMENT.

It is said that "seeing is believing" Seeing "Eli Perkins" and Ignatius Donnelly is not believing them.

Eben E. Rexford, author of that grand old song, "Silver threads among'st the Gold," is now Postmaster at Shiocton, Wis.

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No. 3 Gerritt Smith, P V Nasby, Jno C New, Hamilton Fish, Lucy Hooper, M C Kerr, Theodore Tilton, John Scott, Wm Lloyd Garrison, P T Barnum, Henry Wilson, S F B Morse, Dwight Foster, F W Hedge; 15 names.

No. 4 J A Garfield, R B Hayes, J A Logan, Simon Cameron, Geo S E D Morgan, A G Thurman, G T Bearegard, G W Curtis, E L Davenport, E E Hale, E Silliman; 12 name.

No. 5 G B McClellan, C C Augur, P H Sheridan, Geo. Crook, G A Custer, E O C Ord, W W Belknap, Irwin McDowell, B F Butler, N P Banks, Judson Kilpatrick, E D Townsend, J Pope, A H Terry, L M Goldsborough, J Rodgers, D D Porter, 17 names

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George Peabody, A L S
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AN INTERESTING AUTOGRAPH.

Letter Written by Emperor William When Regent of Prussia.

London Times: During the last few days a letter of Emperor William was published in the German press, which his Majesty wrote many years ago to a gentleman named Baer, in business at Breslau, who had in his possession an autograph of Frederick the Great. This fact came to the knowledge of the present Crown Prince Frederick William when he was in command of the Eleventh Infantry Regiment, and he communicated it to his father, who was then Prince Regent of Prussia. The Prussian royal house were anxious to possess the original, and Herr Baer sent it to the Prince Regent, with the request that his Royal Highness should write him one in exchange for it. In reply to this the following letter was written:

POTSDAM, Jan. 5, 1858.—I have been told, dear Herr Baer, that for the autograph letter of the great King you wish to possess one in my handwriting. I gladly give effect to your desire, for the letter has a peculiar interest, inasmuch as it throws light on the great King's stirring youth. For a thing so precious what you ask in exchange is too worthless; nevertheless, I gladly write to you. It is impossible to me, as any other Prince, to govern better than Frederick II., but I will be vain enough to call your attention to the fact that I can write a little better than he did. Your gift and your wish have a further decided merit in my view, since both spring from a noble feeling which, thank God, has never been rare with us, and to which we owe our honorable position in the world, though sometimes we see it lose heart in presence of the fickle struggles of ambition. Strengthen in your midst this generous patriotic feeling in which, dear Herr Baer, your city of Breslau is so rich.

WILHELM,
Prince Regent of Prussia.

Exchange Column.

☞ *Notices of exchange inserted free for subscribers, abvertisers and contributors. The publisher reserves the right to reject any he deems objectionable.*

Wanted — Military or Political Letters 1760 - 1800 and 1810 - 1815. Gordon L. Ford, 97 Clark St., Brooklyn, New York.

Roger S. Howe, Box 53, Georgetown Mass., has a desirable lot of autographs for exchange.

Wanted — Taxidermal specimens in exchange for Autographs, Coins, Stamps, Minerals or Cash. Send lists of what you have to S. H. Calhoun Jr., Nebraska City, Neb.

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S. H. Calhoun, Jr., Editor and Publisher.

Published at Nebraska City, Nebraska. on the first of every month.

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All are invited to contribute.

Address all communications to

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NEBRASKA CITY, NEBRASKA.

Entered at Nebraska City postoffice as second class mail matter.

NEW YORK AGENT.

Mr. rthur Levy, 391 Pleasant Avenue, New York City, is authorized to receive subscript ons and advertisements for THE AUTOGRAPH.

Lorraine & Co., 41 W. 31st St., New York City, send to any address a *free catalogue* of Autograph Letters, Portraits, Books etc., that they offer for sale at very low rates.

We want the names and addresses of all the autograph collectors we can get, and are willing to pay for them. Those who will send us a few names as a favor will find it appreciated and those who won't we will pay.

We have lately sent out such a great number of sample copies and received so few subscriptions, that we have decided to stop it. So those who desire to see this paper again. must be a subscriber or an advertiser, and those who find this paragraph marked, will consider it a personal solicitation for their subscription, it is the last *sample copy* we will send *you*.

The *Collector's Aid* has again changed hands and in the future will be published by the Star Pub. Co. under the name of *The Collector's Star.*

We would urgently request that Postage stamps would not be sent in payment for subscriptions, advertisements and autographs. It is a great inconvenience to us and unless absolutely necessary we would prefer some other payment.

A good offer is that made by Mr. Morse in our advertising columns. Young collectors can acquire what is a really good collection. The lot includes several Presidents, Vice Presidents, many Generals and a good miscellaneous lot.

We never supposed we would be believed if we said THE AUTOGRAPH had come to stay, so we never said it, but it has most certainly been taken for granted by at least two gentlemen. Some time ago we received a dollar for four years subscription and a few weeks later fifty cents for two years subscription. We thank the gentlemen for their confidence and think they will receive their paper for the full time for which they have subscribed.

It was our intention to publish the result of "our eleetion" this month but we go to press so early and as votes still come straggling in, we will postpone it till next month in order to give all a chance to name their preferences. The vote is very scattering and includes a great many names. This may be an inducement to some to subscribe Subscribe now and see if you are one of the lucky twelve, for remember this is the last samplecopy you will receive.

Our Contemporaries.

If amateur papers desire to exchange with us, we would request current issues and not copies published six months ago.

By far the handsomest "Holiday Number" of any of our exchanges was that of the *Occident*. The design on the cover is simple but excellent.

With his usual enterprise Mr. F H. Timpson of *The Excelsior*, comes out with a very neat New Year's address. It is very nice and worthy a place on any desk.

The National Amateur, under Woolen, is fully up to the standard of his predecessors, and when he gets used to it, will make out of it, such a paper, as ought to represent an organization of the ability and power of the Napa.

The *Juvens Vade Mecum* reaches us this month in a much improved condition It has adopted the Uniform Page Plan and is now truly a representative amateur journal. As a rule these three and four editor papers are overdone, but not so with *Juvens Vade Mecum*.

We received the following new papers last month, for which publishers will please accept our thanks: Niagara Falls Philatelist, Mohawk Standard, Youths Review, Excelsior, Spindle City Youth, Our Boys (San Francisco), Our Boys (Philadelphia), Contributor, Agents World, Amateur World, The Orient, The Meteor, The Philatelic Review, The Guide, Agents Mirror, Calmar Exchange, The Monitor, The Alligator, Truth, Western World.

A LETTER.

BOSTON, Dec. 28th, 1887.

To the Editor of The Autograph:

Dear Sir – I received a copy of your little paper, and am pleased to see that you are endeavoring to encourage the hobby of auto-collecting in your part of the country.

You may like to publish my experience in collecting, as I have got one or two different lots together at various times.

My first experience was about ten years since, when I started a book of signatures, cutting off the names from valuable letters and at that time perfectly satisfied with that manner of preserving my specimens, but a year or so following I was advised to keep all of my letters, and as I was constantly picking up good specimens, started my collection of Auto MSS. and letters.

After a while I found the number was increasing to such an extent, that I must arrange them in some order; so procuring several good, strong blank books, I sorted my "Poets" from "Lawyers," and "Presidents," and then I had something well worth inspecting, as every letter was classified and placed in its proper volume. Then I had one book filled (after a while with foreign literary specimens My first being of course none other but Chas. Dickens. Then one made up entirely of American writers, and I may add, that I have been favored with nearly all our prominent writers. Some contributing, a short extract from a favorite work, like Holmes "Old Ironsides" for instance.

My volume containing the distinguished public men of the day was one of the best Beginning with the Presidents, and taking in some of the great leaders in the Civil War. Gen. R. E. Lee being one of that class that I had the most difficulty in obtaining. Another volume I devoted to the period of the Revolution, Washington's Generals and old Governors, etc. This is to my thinking and is the best way by far to properly collect and preserve one's specimens. Some of your readers may like to adopt this method. if so, I am glad I have described my plan.

A word or two regarding some of my experiences in procuring my letters, and the ones I possess, may be of interest. Miss Dickens, daughter of the great novelist, sent me an envelope with his name in one corner, accompanied by a very pretty note. A signature of Hon W. E. Gladstone was also forwarded me from London, one of the hardest names to obtain there is. One of the best things in my possession, is a recommendation given my father by old Zach. Taylor at the time he was elected President, ten or more lines, and signed in full by the old warrior. His name ranks third among the U. S. Presidents for rarity. I wrote to the English writer, Jean Ingelow, about some tableaus that were brought out for some charity and her "Songs of Seven," was illustrated at the time, and requested her to send me a verse of the poem, which she did, and also wrote a nice note besides.

At present I am collecting the signatures and cabinet photo's of our leading actors and distinguished people generally.

I obtained a large album and placed the pictures, generally first taking them off of the card mountings, on a page, and requesting that the name be written below. I find it makes a very fine and most interesting volume.

Yours truly.

H. F. LAMB.

Abraham Lincoln.

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References: Publisher of this paper. C. F. Gunther, Chicago, Ill.

WANTED - Signatures of Presidents Jno. Adams, Harrison Jefferson and Lincoln, Generals Pemberton, Custer, Mead, Stonewall Jackson and Nathial Lyons. Admiral Farragut; Capt. DeLong, Mrs. Langtry, Forrest, Edison, Elias Howe, Wm. Penn, Aaron Burr. Henry Irving, Lester Wallack and John Wilkes Booth. Will buy or exchange. Address A E. ALLEN, Box 305, Trenton, N. J.

I am breaking up a large collection and will send any of the following, post paid, with my large 14 page price list and a sample copy of Common Sense, a 12 page magazine for collectors.

10 Indian relics, 40 cts. 1 Sea Curiosities, 25 cts. 10 Minerals, 2 cts 1 Curiosities, 25 cts. 100 Stamps, all different, 15 cts.

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EXCHANGE

THE AUTOGRAPH.

Devoted to the Interests of Autograph Collecting.

VOL. 1. NEBRASKA CITY, NEBRASKA, MARCH, 1888. NO. 9.

Among my Autographs.

Quite frequently I have been asked why I did not keep the Autographs of *all* men or women who have, in some way or other, distinguished themselves, instead of solely collecting the autographs of authors.

When this was asked I did not, for the moment, know how to reply as I had really never thought of the matter. I knew that when I began collecting, I had the autographs of soldiers, actors, dramatists, philosophers, poets, and every conceivable thing, mixed together But, as I always was a great admirer of authors and poets, I viewed these with a special pride, often passing over the other autographs without glancing at them Then it occurred to me that it would be best if I gave up the autographs I did not care for and would take others in their place that interested me more. Little by little those I did not care for vanished until I had only those of literary people in my collection I think that is the best thing only to collect a certain class of autographs, for instance: Signers of the Declaration of Independence, Presidents of the U. S., Generals of the Revolutionary War, Authors, Actors, etc., as it makes the collection not only more interesting, but more valuable. For example: the late Ben: Perley Poore left a very valuable collection behind him, he never having bought one autograph in his life, but they were all mixed together and were very hard to classify. Had he collected the autographs of a special class of people, how much more valuable they would have been.

A few autographs, in my collection, which I value the most are those of Emerson, not "Billy" but R. W.) Wilkie Collins, Charles Dickens, J. B. Aldrich, and last but not least, a man of whom every one has heard, and a man whom I admire more than all the rest,—Oliver Wendell Holmes. To read his poems has always been a source of infinite pleasure to me, and this being the case, why should I not treasure his autograph more than all the rest, though he might be easy to get His autographs not being at all rare, he answering every request that he receives, whether it be from the Princess of Wales or from a school girl. In connection with this, Dr. Holmes says in his "One Hundred Days in Europe", which originally appeared in *The Atlantic Monthly*, published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., as follows:

"I never refused to write in the birthday book or the album of the humblest schoolgirl or schoolboy, and I could not refuse to set my name, with a verse from one of my poems, in the album of the Princess of Wales, which was sent me for that purpose. It was a nice new book, with only two or three names in it, and those of musical composers, Rubenstein's, I think, was one of them, so that I felt honored by the great lady's request. I ought to describe the book, but I only remember that it was quite large and sumptously elegant, and that I copied into it the last verse of a poem of mine called "The Chambered Nautilus", as I have often done for plain republican albums."

Is it not very peculiar, that if you were to write the Princess of Wales for her autograph you would not receive an answer, and yet if Dr. Holmes had refused to write in her album she would have felt insulted. Perhaps she thinks that people of royal descent are the only ones that ought to be allowed to collect.

Another thing that many collectors have undoubtedly noticed is that Englishmen very seldom reply to any request for their autograph, while in America every one, except a few "snobs" will answer.

To get back to my collection, those autographs which I admire next to those mentioned before, are those of John G. Whittier, Longfellow, Bryant and Taylor, with Bancroft closely following. I read the following in the New York *World*, speaking of Mr. Whittier in connection with his eightieth birthday:

"After reaching home Mr. Whittier has a terrible task with his mail. Forty letters a day is his average. Some of the letters are good to receive, but by far the major portion are burdens. But he is a very faithful correspondent and spends hours of valuable time answering letters, many of which are undeserving. Requests for autographs, when accompanied by postage stamps (and hundreds of autograph friends neglect this little formality), he graciously grants, but the letters which excite his greatest ire are those of sneaking autograph hunters who, instead of asking for what they want, try to cheat him out of it under some bogus pretence or other. The poet comes nearer to anger when he discovers one of these petty frauds than at any other time, and it is to

be feared that they do not get the wished for autographs.

I hardly know what to say concerning the above, for I know there are many autograph hunters that do just the above thing, although I do not think it fair. But they cannot be blamed entirely, for if they were to write for a letter they would not receive it, and signatures they do not want; but if they do this in order to realize some profit therefrom, I think it the most contemptible thing extant. For it is robbing a man of what he does not desire to give. There is the point where a type-writer, or a private secretary, or a friend comes in hands. You can get them to do the work of answering the letter for you, and you can be on the safe side at the same time.

ARTHUR LEVY.

Thomas Nast's Good Advice.

When Thomas Nast was in Kansas City recently, he was annoyed by the rudeness of the elevator boys, and said as much On a later visit one boy was all politeness, and asked Mr. Nast for his autograph. Mr Nast drew him a hasty pen and ink sketch of himself bowing deferentially to the elevator boy, and wrote under the drawing: "Those who elevate others must be polite themselves." The boy learned a lesson.—New York Sun.

Henry Ward Beecher's books are being sold, and so far $8,500 has been realized. One work disposed of contained the following note in Beecher's hand: "To the fellow who took the former copy: N. B.—Do not steal this copy also."

Exchanger's Directory.

Under this heading we will publish the names and addresses of subscribers who have autographs for exchange, free. Non-subscribers will be charged 25c for each insertion.

A E. Allen, box 305, Trenton, N.J.

E. Bumgardner, Arvington, Kas.

E. F. Gladwin, Scott City, Kan.

Waring Mikell, Edisto Island, S.C.

Wyman Bros., Perry, Ohio.

How can these little 2x4 sheets grumble about not receiving many subscriptions, when they devote at least two-thirds of their small space in wrangling over the outcome of the Philadelphia convention.

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"In Memoriam of John M. Daniel" by Daniel R. Lucas, U. S. S. from W. Va., 8 verses. $2.25

"Fire Pictures," by Paul H. Hayne, 5 verses. $15.00

"The Day After." A poem by Wm G Simms. 17 verses. $6.00

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Two literary A. L. S's. of Wm. G Simms. 2pages, each $1.25

"Lansdowne." By Miss Beale of Va., pages 97 and 98. .75

Crumbs, Crusts and Curiosities from the wallet of Fra. Laurence Duresme (Prof G. F. Holmes) of the University of Va., 3pp. $2.50

"The Soul of God in Things Evil" An article by Paul Hamilton Hayne, 3 pages. $2.50

"Non-de-plumes." by James Wood Davidson, 2 pages, $1.00

Hiram Corson, A. L. S, 4 pages, strong anti-Bacon letter, inspired by the Donnelly cipher. .80

S. P. Chase, A L. S. .60

John Esten Cooke, " .60

T. Noon Talford, " .60

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THE AUTOGRAPH.

S. H. Calhoun, Jr., Editor and Publisher.

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NEBRASKA CITY, NEBRASKA.

Entered at Nebraska City post office as secon class mail matter.

NEW YORK AGENT.

Mr. Arthur Levy, 344 E. 120th Street, New York City, is authorized to receive subscriptions and advertisements for THE AUTOGRAPH.

Hereafter we shall keep account of all sample copies sent out. If you wish to see the second copy you must be a subscriber, advertiser or contributor.

Just one year ago to day we issued the first number of THE AUTOGRAPH, sending it out to stand or fall, to battle for itself and make a place for itself among the collector journals of America. How well it has, can best be told by others. It is rather unfortunate, that the "obliging p nters" have succeeded in making us skip three months and thus fail to complete Vol. I., when t should have been completed, but "better luck next time."

Wanted — Taxidermal specimens in exchange for Autographs, Coins, Stamps, Minerals or Cash. Send lists of what you have to S. H. Calhoun Jr., Nebraska City, Neb.

We want the names and addresses of all the autograph collectors we can get, and are willing to pay for them. Those who will send us a few names as a favor will find it appreciated and those who won't we will pay.

Mr. M. F. Savage has put us under many obligations for the catalogue of the Robert J. Greene collection of autographs, sold at auction January 3 st, 1888, by Messrs. Bangs & Co.

THE AUTOGRAPH was in error recently, in stating that W. E. Benjamin had retired from the autograph business. Mr. Benjamin informs us, that he still continues "the old business at the old stand."

Mr. E. F. Gladwin, late of Brooklyn, is now permanently settled in Scott City, Kansas, where he would like to hear from all his old friends and any new ones. Mr. Gladwin informs us, that he is better equipped than ever, to supply the fraternity with cheap A. L. S.

The original warrant on which John Bunyan was arrested for the imprisonment, during which he wrote the first part of the "Pilgrin's Progress," has been found in England recently. It fills a half sheet of foolscap and in it Bunyan is described as a "Tynker."

PLEASE SUBSCRIBE.

Our Contemporaries

The Hoosier Naturalist is as entertaining and instructive in Vol. III. as it was in the old days of Vol. I.

The Collectors Illustrated Magazine, coming from away out in Riverside, California, is brim full of articles interesting to collectors. E.M. Haight is the publisher.

The initial number of The Collectors Advocate, hailing from Ohio, reaches us this month. It is ably edited and published by Chas. P. Tarvin, 165 Plum Street, Cincinnati. If succeeding numbers are up to the standard of No. 1, there will be nothing to complain of.

There are several papers who have persistently refused to send us copies in return for ours. They send one copy and quit; we dont know whether this is carelessness or intentional slight. Our paper may not be as large as some of our exchanges, but we think in regard to interest to the class among which it circulates, it will compare favorably with some of the larger ones. We would like to see *your* paper regular.

To an admiring correspondent at New London, John Greenleaf Whittier recently wrote that "Maud Muller" was not composed as a story of his own life, as has sometimes been intimated. But "Maud" had a real prototype in a country-girl of whom he obtained a drink while riding by, and who modestly raked the hay up about her bare ankles while he was drinking the water.

"Doomed Dozen."

Since the idea of this paper was formed, it has always been one of the publisher's dearest wishes to be able to present to the autograph public, the portraits and sketches of our most prominent dealers and collectors, but those whom we desired scouted the idea when approached on the subject, pleading modesty as an excuse, and we were in despair of getting even a single one to allow us the privilege of showing his handsome countenance to the world — when it was proposed that an election be held to determine the twelve most prominent and popular "autographists" in America. The idea was adopted and from the following showing seems to have met with hearty favor. The successful twelve need no longer hold back from a sense of modesty when it is the *desire* of a majority of intelligent autograph collectors to see their portrait. It is a way of cementing friendship. We can not all see them in the flesh, so we are forced to the alternative of a cut. A word more for the successful twelve; they can take the result of this vote as a decided compliment, paid them mostly by entire strangers and those who have received votes, but not enough for an election, can take it as a compliment. In case any of the elect positively refuse, we shall request the next highest on the list to take his place. And right here we make a personal appeal to the successful ones to comply with the request, the desire, the wish of the collectors who elected them and allow us to publish their portraits and biographies — modesty need not stand in the way now — it will not be thought conceit or out of place.

79 votes were cast with the following result:

S H Calhoun Jr. 69, H L Sheldon 15 C F Gunther 55, Geo W Childs 18, E F Gladwin 48, A E Allen 12, Wm E Benjamin 24, W R Benjamin 11, M F Savage 32, H K Sanderson 11, Arthur Levy 24, F D Andrews 11, O H Peck 27, Wm F Cornell 10, E Bumgardner 19, Burns & Son 13, R W Mercer 23, Ben W Austin 22, Isaac H Taylor 10, C H McHenry 15, Frank D Story 8, Jeff C Davis Jr 4, A E Ames 4, David J Cist 4, A J Penny 4, J S H Fogg 4, Geo F Heath 3, F J Dreer 3, J H Brown (Malden) 3, Dr T A Emmett 3, W Mikell 2, C S Brown 2, G D Vroom 2, E F Strickland 2, Eugene Didier 2, H W Bryant 2, E W Bok 3, G E Dixon 2, Dr R Coulton Davis 6, S Gratz 4, H F Lamb 2, Gus A Roeddel 4, E P Vining 2, D B Wyman 1, J W Howarth 1, E T Perine 1 E D Robb 1, T P Dwight 1, Chas Eliot Norton 1, Geo O Walson 1 B A Cotlow 1, Miss Grace Salkeld 1, E T Lawsing 2, Jos Wiggleworth 1, Frank H Lattin 1, C G Woodworth 2, W A Shaughan 1, B W Kumler 1, B W Aubbard 1, Mrs Adele D G Locke 2, Miss M B Curran , W E Ambler 2, N K Todd 2, Wm L Ransom 4.

We are sorry the ladies did not receive more votes. The twelve who have received the highest number of votes are Messrs. Gunther, Gladwin, Calhoun, Wm. E. Benjamin, Savage, Levy, Peck, Bumgardner, Mercer, Austin, Sheldon and the Hon. Geo. W. Childs. If possible we will begin this interesting series next month.

THE AUTOGRAPH one year (12 numbers) and the privilege of the exchange department for twenty five cents silver.

Abraham Lincoln.

WANTED--Letters or Manuscripts of his or any other noted people, male or female: also historical curiosities, maps, books, etc. Pay cash. Address C F. Gunther, 212 State, St. Chicago, Ill.

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U. S. Stamps of all Kinds.
P. O. BOX, 294.
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THE AUTOGRAPH.

Devoted to the Interests of Autograph Collecting.

VOL. 1. NEBRASKA CITY, NEBRASKA, APRIL, 1888. NO. 10.

UP GO THE PRICES.

THE SALE OF THE COLLECTION OF MAJ. BEN: PERLEY POORE, AT BOSTON.

Stocks and bonds generally have a market value, subject, of course, to fluctuations from day to day, and it has always been customary to see a certain price which will not vary much, put upon autograph letters. But the value heretofore set upon the latter class of property seems to have undergone a decided change.

Maj. Ben: Perley Poore, of Newburyport, Mass., whose long life in public at Washington, has given him a national reputation, recently died, at an advanced age, after a long and useful career. During his residence at the Capitol, he took up the hobby of collecting autographs, and for forty years followed it diligently. His plan was never to buy an autograph, and it is said he adhered to it strictly. But little by little he laid away a great quantity of material, of the nature of which few knew after his death, the executors decided to put the collection upon the market, and after some delay the affair was placed in the hands of a well-known firm in Boston to dispose of.

Dr. John S. H. Fogg, of South Boston, Mass., who has made so many catalogues, was engaged to put the stuff in shape for the auctioneer's hammer. The entire collection filled three good sized dry goods boxes, and one day last autumn they were left at the residence of the genial Doctor, for his examination and classification. Slowly the great mass of papers has been looked over, arranged and catalogued, entailing a vast amount of work, patience and perseverance, for Maj. Poore accepted anything and everything in the way of an autograph, whether good, bad or indifferent, and the last two qualities predomenated. His load of scraps signed by cabinet officers, senators and representatives, was enough to discourage an old hand at the business, while the miscellaneous nature of the whole showed that "all was fish which came to his net." A general idea prevailed, that the whole collection would be second rate, but much to the surprise of all, a great many fine prices turned up. It may interest some to know what a few of the more important numbers out of the three thousand sold for.

Three A. L. S. of Stonewall Jackson, written during the Valley campaign to Gen. Ewell, brought $25 each. Two letters, signed only, of Robert E. Lee, went at $24 and $25 respectively. An A L S. 1p. 40, of the scoundrel, Gen. Wirz, Supt. of Andersonville Prison, brought $34. The Congresses of of the United States arranged in sections, and comprising about two hundred letters each, sold at an average of 12c per piece, the most of them the veriest trash. The administration of each president, consisting of a specimen of the president and cabinet complete, and several hundred congressmen to each lot, sold at about the same price.

A scrap signed by Sir Edmund Andros, went for $6; a document signed by John Endicott, $10; a bellum land grant signed by William Penn, $26; a mess of studies and notes of George Grote, the historian, $19.50. Three letters of Nathaniel Hawthorne commanded, $18, $12 and $13. An original printed copy of the Declaration of Independence, sent to the clergy to be read, and in poor condition, was knocked off at $31; a copy of the Essex Journal containing the Declaration, went for $10.50. A quarto A. L. S. of Carter Braxton, the Signer, went at $13; one of Wm. Floyd $15; an A. D S. of Ben. Franklin $24; a document signed by Thomas Heywood $21 and one by Lewis Morris $23. A fine folio D. S. of Stephen Hopkins $12 and a much poorer A. D. S. $18. An A. L. S. of Jefferson went at $7, and a small A. D. S. of Philip Livingston $10.50. A magnificent A. L. S. 3pp. 4to of Edgar Allen Poe, reached $96. Two good commis-

sions signed by Abraham Lincoln, brought $11 each. A small actors A. L. S. of Lincoln to Chas. Sumner $29, and a poorer specimen $21. A two page A. L. S. of Zachary Taylor went for $21. A small one-half page document signed by Sen. Knyphausen, the Hessian commander and Count Donap, soared up to $105, and finally went to a Boston man who buys at any price if he wants a thing. An A. L. S. of Gen. Duportail brought $32; one of John Paul Jones $26, and an A. D. S. of Paul Revere $15.50. The high water mark was reached during the sale of a large volumn of 150 pages, entitled "From Congo to Congress." This book contained a mass of material relating to slavery, including letters from dozens of prominent men and an especially nice one of John Brown. It was profusely illustrated with wood cuts and cuttings, making a unique volumn. Competition ran lively upon it up to $20, when it was finally knocked off to a New York party. A letter of Cleveland brought $5, and a message to congress, signed by Arthur, $8. A A muster roll signed by Gen. Wolfe, brought $21. Almost everything went in this proportion. It is understood that the entire proceeds of the sale will amount to $8000, and the estimate which the appraisers set upon the collection was $3000. Who shall say that autographs do not form valuable property?

— Howard K. Sanderson.

Exchange Column.

☞ *Notices of exchange inserted free for subscribers, abvertisers and contributors. The publisher reserves the right to reject any he deems objectionable.*

Wanted — Taxidermal specimens in exchange for Autographs, Coins, Stamps, Minerals or Cash. Send lists of what you have to S. H. Calhoun Jr., Nebraska City, Neb.

Autographs for exchange.
O. H. Peck,
Box 2140,
Denver, Col.

Signatures of Rea, Longstreet, F. J. Porter, Buckner, Leslie, Sprague, James, Hatton, Watts, Fairchilds, Douglas, Reagan and many others for autographs.—
Robert Dick,
515 Sixth St.,
New York City.

AUTOGRAPHS.—I will exchange autographs, stamps, coins, minerals and curiosities for autographs. Wm. Handy,
815 Chestnut St.
Philadelphia.

AUTOGRAPHS

of Washington, Adams, Van Buren, Monroe, Tyler, Polk, Pierce, Buchanan, Fillmore, Grant, Johnson and many others for sale at reasonable prices. Send for my list and tell me what you want.

Howard K. Sanderson,
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WANTED--Letters or Manuscripts of his or any other noted people, male or female: also historical curiosities, maps, books, etc. Pay cash. Address
C F. Gunther, 212 State, St.
Chicago, Ill.

THE AUTOGRAPH.

S. H. Calhoun, Jr., Editor and Publisher.

The only paper in the world devoted exclusively to the interests of autograph collecting.

Published at Nebraska City, Nebraska, on the first of every month.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:—25 cents per annum, in advance.

ADVERTISING RATES:—5 cents per line.

	1 mo	2 mo's.	3 mo's.
1 inch,	.50	.85	$1.00
2 inches,	.85	$1.25	$1.50
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Copy must be in by the 15th of the month to in u e i sertion in next issue.

All are invited to contribute.

Address all communications to

S. H. CALHOUN, JR.,
NEBRASKA CITY, NEBRASKA.

Entered at Nebraska City post office as second class mail matter.

NEW YORK AGENT.

Mr. Arthur Levy, 344 E. 120th Street, New York ity, is authorized to receive subscript ons and advertisements for THE AUTOGRAPH.

Mr. H. A. Babb, of Denver, has issued a directory of the Stamp Dealers of America, which, as near as we are able to judge, is complete in every particular.

Up to date four of the "doomed dozen" have signified their willingness to become a martyr to the cause to the extent of a portrait and biography. Everyone will be specially interested in that of Mr. Gunther.

We want the names and addresses of all the autograph collectors we can get, and are willing to pay for them. Those who will send us a few names as a favor will find it appreciated and those who won't we will pay.

The Nebraska City Autograph recently polled its readers in a vote for the "most popular autograph collector in America." Geo. W. Chields received the fourth largest vote.—Philadelphia Daily News, March 15, 1888.

Notice our "ad." in another column, where we offer a curious manuscript of Appleton Morgan, President of the New York Shakesperian Society, entitled: "The Killing of the Bacon Theory." It has not yet appeared in print, but will create a sensation when it does.

There are several delinquents in advertising, etc., that up to date cannot be heard from. We do not want to start a "black list" in THE AUTOGRAPH if we can help it, but will do so mighty quick, if we can find a subject against whom it is our duty to protect ourselves and others.

Upon the completion of Vol. I. of THE AUTOGRAPH we will change the form to a 2 column, 8 page and cover. The latter providing we can secure enough advertisements to pay us in so doing. We are now making yearly contracts for space on the cover at the following rates:

1 in.	$3.50.	2 in.	$6.00.
3 in.	8.00.	½ col.	10.00.
1 col.	18.00.	1 page	27.50.

If you can possibly do so, help us make THE AUTOGRAPH what a representative paper of a class of collectors of the intelligence of "Autographist," should be. Will you?

Our Contemporaries

The Mystic World is a good one.

The change in the form of Common Sense has by no means been an improvement.

The Buckeye State Collector is well worth sending for. L. J. Smith manipulates the editorial reins.

"Dais" in The Eastern Philatelist in a sketch on "Philatelic bombast," does just exactly what he is condemning in others.

The Stamp enters upon its third year, with 20 pages and cover, adopting a new form. Well, they have three rustlers on it.

The leading article in The Ray for March, if not really taken from life, would find a prototype in nearly every amateur editor.

The first number we have seen of The Amateur Press finds its way to our sanctum this month. It is very beautiful in appearance and ably conducted.

Goodnow Brothers' Excelsior comes this month greatly improved in size and matter. We liked you when small, we like you better now. Come again.

Too much cannot be said about Etchings. The initial poem sounds considerably like John W. Daniel, U. S. Senator from Virginia. Are we not right, Mr. Woolen?

Mixed Pickles, hailing from Denver and published by B. Cunningham, is a new exchange. The chief feature of the copy we have seen, seems to be in picking flaws in comtemporaries.

THE AUTOGRAPH one year (12 numbers) and the privilege of the exchange department for twenty five cents silver.

POEANA.

An interesting collection of Ana, etc., relating to Edgar Allan Poe, including two small volumes of newspaper clippings, containing letters by Poe and about him, graphic newspaper accounts of the unveiling of the Poe monument in Baltimore, personal recollections, etc.; a fac-simile of 'Alone," Poe's early poem; two letters from Alexander Hynds, of Tennessee, giving some reminiscences of the poet; 26 letters from W. J. Widdleton, the publisher of Poe's works for more than 20 years; fac-similes of the letters of Tennyson, Bryant, Lowell and Holmes, written at the time of the dedication of the Baltimore Monument; cut of the Fordham cottage, with fac-simile of a portion of the MS. of Annabel Lee; three letters from Sarah Helen Whitman—Poe's friend and zealous defender—containing personal mention of the poet. "So much has been written, and so much still continues to be written about Poe by persons who are either avowed or secret enemies, that I joyfully welcome every friendly or impartial word spoken in his behalf." Extract from Mrs. Whitman's letter of April 23, 1876. These Poeana were collected by an American author, deeply interested in the author of the "Raven," and admirers of America's greatest original genius should secure this unique collection without delay. Price $50.

S. H. Calhoun, Jr.,
Nebraska City.

The Autograph one year (12 numbers) and the privilege of the exchange department for twenty five cents silver.

Exchanger's Directory.

Under this heading we will publish the names and addresses of subscribers who have autographs for exchange, free. Non-subscribers will be charged 25c for each insertion.

D. S. Farrington, Wrentham, Mass.

O. H. Peck, Box 2140, Denver, Col.

J. Neafie, 191 W. 10th St., New York City.

Wm. S. Ginglen, Bordentown, N. J.

Ben. W. Austin, Dallas, Tex.

W. M. Handy, 815 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

A. Allen, 31 East 127 St., New York City.

Trenton, N. J., March 14.

S. H. Calhoun, Jr.,

Dear Sir:—In the last issue of your interesting little paper, I notice the words "Please subscribe," and it came to my mind, can any person with the means to buy or beg autographs be so mean or or stingy as to refuse to comply with such request as this, just think 12 papers for 25c, and yet some will not subscribe. I do not think you can afford to publish such a paper for the price, of course your subscription list must be limited, and if you do not secure enough at the price, I hope to see you double it, make it 50c and I am sure there are some that will encourage you to continue on in your good and interesting way. I would at any time willingly pay 5 c or $1 per year, rather than see you stop, which, of course you do not think of doing.

I find only one objection to "The Autograph" so far, and that is, its too long between papers. I hope some day to see it published once a week.

Wishing you the success you so much deserve, I am the

"Autographs" Friend
A. E. Allen.

CALHOUN'S

SEVENTH GREAT MONTHLY BARGAIN IN

Autograph Letters.

Esmeralda Boyle, Poet, 2pp., .30
E R Champlin, Author, 2pp. .30
Max Adeler, Humorist, 1pp, .50
C M Goodsell, Journalist, 1pp, .30
A P Gorman, U S Senator, Md, 1pp, .50
Jas R Randall, Author "Maryland," 2pp, .60
Mary N Sherwood, Author, 2pp, .30
Albion W Tourgee, Author, 2pp, .75
Portion of a letter written to an indignant contributor, who complained that his MSS. was returned. The letter is not signed, or rather the page containing the signature is missing, but it is written on the paper of "Our Continent," and gauranteed to be genuine—very characteristic.
Alvey A Adee, Shakesperian Scholar, 2pp, .30
F A Barnard, Pres Columbia College, 2pp, .30
Appleton Morgan, Shakesperian, 6pp, 1.50
Subject of International copyright.
Joel Benton, Poet, 1pp, .60
Elihu Burritt, Learned Blacksmith, 3pp, 1.50
Hon. Hamilton Fish, Ex-Sec State, 1p, 1.50
(In answer to a letter inquiring "Who are eligible to the order of the Cincinnati.)
Oliver Wendell Holmes, Poet, etc, 2pp, 1.75
Richard Grant White, Author, 1p, 1.25
Chas Dudley Warner, Author, 2pp, .75
Thos G Appleton, Wit & Author, 3pp, 1.25
Hon. Jas Brooks, M C & Journalist, 1p, .60
Eugene L Didier, Author "Life of Poe," 1p, .30
Samuel Adams Drake, Author, 3pp .85
Evert A Duyckinck, Author, 1p, .85
Daniel Dougherty, Orator & Lawyer, 1p, .60
Salmi Morse, Author of "Passion Play," 2pp, 1.75
(Dated "Office of the Passion," May 12, 1883.)
White aw Reid, Editor, 1p, .35
Theodore Roosevelt, Author, 1p, .35
Christian Reid, Southern Novelist, 3pp, .60
Ward Lamon, Author, 1p, .60
Col Chas King, Novelist, 3pp, .60
Sidney Howard Gay, Author & Journalist, 3pp, .60
H H Furness, Shakesperian, 4pp, 1.25
Stephen Fiske, Dramatist, 1p, .50
J O Halliwell—Phillips, Shakesperian, 3pp 1.25
J W Palmer, Author, 1p, .30
Ignatius Donnelly, Author, 2pp, 1.00
On the subject of the Shakespeare—Bacon cipher.
Eugene Benson, Poet & Painter, 1p, .30
F. Hawley, Shakesperian, 3pp, .60
Subject of forming Spakespeare Memorial Library at Stratford-on-Avon.
J Norris, Editor Shakespeareana, 2pp, .30
Westley R Mills, Prof McGills College, 2pp, .30
J H Nodal, Sec English Dialect Society, 4pp, .50
Interesting letter on Worwickshire, Shakespeare's Country, Dialect.
O Follett Shakesperian Scholar, 3pp, .60
W J Rolfe, " " 3pp, .60
Chas F Johnson, " " 4pp, .30
Brorder Matthews Author, 2pp, .30
W D O'Connor, Author, 3pp, .30
Brooks Adams, Author, 1p, .30
Dr Karl Muller, Germ Shakespearian Scholar, 2pp .60
Henry Mason Baum, Ed. Church Review, 1p, .30
Contance M Potts, Baconian, 7pp. 1.50
Interesting letter on the subject of various provincialisms in Shakespeare, which is found in Bacon's.

FAC SIMILES.

Grays Elegy, (first and last stanzas, with his signature) 1.25
Deed of that portion of Long Island upon which Brooklyn now stands, Oct. 18th, 1667. 1.25
Death Warrant of Charles I., with signatures of the judges. 3.00

S. H. Calhoun Jr.
Nebraska City, Nebr.

THE CORONA NEWS LETTER
ALONZO CHAMBERLAIN, Publisher
Corona, - New Jersey.

THE AUTOGRAPH.

Devoted to the Interests of Autograph Collecting.

VOL. 1. NEBRASKA CITY, NEBRASKA, MAY, 1888. NO. 11.



ALBERTIS E. ALLEN.

The subject of the above portrait was born in Philadelphia, Jefferson County, N. Y., September 30th, 1848. When but four years of age his parents removed to Trenton, the capital city of New Jersey. His education was obtained in the excellent public schools of that city and suplemented by a course in the Trenton "link" of the well known "Bryant & Stratton" chain of Business Colleges.

He commenced his business career in the Trenton office of the Howe Sewing Machine Co. but was soon transferred to a responsible position in the main office of the company at Philadelphia, which he retained until failing health induced him in 1877 to try "roughing it" in Kansas, and although at one time his life was despaired of, he finally recovered, and after three years absence returned to the scenes of his boyhood in Trenton, restored to health, but exhausted in means, to begin anew in 1880.

He accepted a responsible position as cashier and chief accountant for Burroughs & Mountford, the leading pottery firm and china decorators of this country. In 1884 he started the "Allen Steam Laundry" in Trenton. His success in this is phenominal in as much as his *alone* remains of nine American laundries in existence at the time or started since, and he now owns and manages the only steam laundry in the city, employing sixteen hands and doing a large business, besides retaining his position with Burroughs & Mountford.

He is also engaged in orange culture in Florida. He is a member of Ashler Lodge No. 76 F. & A. M. Capital City Council No. 392 Royal Arcanum, Garfield Republican Club, and The Young Mens Republican Association of Trenton. He was prominent in the organization of the latter, which has a membership of over 400, and was for several years its treasurer. He is unfortunate enough in being a republican, but doubly afflicted in that he is an ardent supporter of James G. Blaine. He is not a politician and never asks or accepts preferment for himself, but sometimes takes a hand in a campaign for a friend or a principle and when he does his influence is always apparent in the result.

Mr. Allen is a lover of a good horse and can generally be seen on the "Avenue" behind a good stepper when sleighing or other attractions call out the horsemen.

He is fast developing into a prominent "Autographist" and now has some very valuable and interesting autographs, among them is one of General Joseph Warren, written about a month previous to his death at Bunker Hill in June, 1775; Robert Fulton, of first steamboat fame; S. F. B. Morse, inventor of telegraphy; E. K. Kane, arctic explorer; Daniel O Connell, Irish agitator; Ethan Allen, colonel in revolution; George, H. R. H. Duke of Cambridge and Commander-in-Chief of the British Army; Gathorne Hardy, Ex-Secretary of War of Great Britain; General Boulanger, the French soldier; also one received from the late Ex-Gov. Joel Parker of New Jersey, written only a few days before his sudden death; Brigham Young, the Morman; Chas. Dickens, Robt. E. Lee, the presidents and hundreds of other just as interesting.

Mr. Allen has convictions and ideas of his own and claims that it is a mistaken notion that card autographs or signatures, are of no interest or value, that nine persons out of ten will sit down and look over card autographs and spend hours with them where one will look at or read a letter, and that young ladies and gentlemen would

find much interest in collecting them.

They should, however, be particular about their authenticity and exercise care and originality in arranging them so that they may be made attractive and easily exhibited. He says that autographs are to look at and not to be covered up under a bushel or a glass, where they cannot be freely examined.

Mr. Allen is a good representative of the prosperous and honorable American citizen.

Left-Hand Writers.

"It looks like copper-plate," remarked a prominent teacher of penmanship to a New York Mail and Express reporter, as he exhibited a handsome specimen of chirography from among the many specimens in his large collection.

"It couldn t have been written very rapidly," suggested the reporter.

"It was, though—as rapidly as the writer could make his fingers move."

"Probably he is a professional penman, bookkeeper or teacher, likely."

"Neither, and he only learned to write four years ago. He was a soldier. During the war he lost his right arm. After the war he became a traveling salesman. Five years ago he lost a leg in a railroad accident, and then took up penmanship. He had to learn it all over again. But by perseverance you see how much he has accomplished. He is the secretary of a mining company down town, and draws $10,000 a year salary. One odd thing about this is that he never was a good penman when he had both arms. But in learning to use his left hand he acquired the art of making all of his characters plainly. He made them slowly at first, and now he can't write badly; no matter how rapidly he works. He can do something more rapidly than that."

'What can that be?"

"He is an expert and rapid shorthand writer."

"Are there many like him?"

"I don't know of any equally expert, but I do know a large number of men who have lost their right arms and learned to write very rapidly with their left hands."

"Did you ever know of a man's learning to use both hands equally well?"

"There are a few instances on record. I heard of a man once who not only wrote with both hands, but wrote with them at the same time and a different sentence with each hand. He was the wonder of the profession, but he was more of a freak than anything else. Ambidexterity is a great accomplishment, but such experiences as that are not valuable, save as curiosities."

Upon the completion of Vol. I. of THE AUTOGRAPH we will change the form to a 2 column, 8 page and cover. The latter providing we can secure enough advertisements to pay us in so doing. We are now making yearly contracts for space on the cover at the following rates:

1 in.	$3.50.	2 in.	$6.00.
3 in.	8.00.	½ col.	10.00.
1 col.	18.00.	1 page	27.50.

If you can possibly do so, help us make THE AUTOGRAPH what a representative paper of a class of collectors of the intelligence of "Autographist," should be. Will you?

Exchange Column

☞ *Notices of exchange inserted free for subscribers, abvertisers and contributors. The publisher reserves the right to reject any he deems objectionable.*

WANTED. — Philatelic and Numismatic papers. Nos. 2, 9 and 10 of The Autograph especially desired.

H. E. DEATS,
Flemington, N J.

Wanted — Taxidermal specimens in exchange for Autographs, Coins, Stamps, Minerals or Cash. Send lists of what you have to S. H. Calhoun Jr., Nebraska City, Neb.

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Allison, W B., L. S.	30
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Beecher, Henry Ward, two lines A. S.	2 00
Bowen, Thomas M., L. S.	30
Badeau, Gen. Adam, A. N. 3d person	30
Beauregard, G. T., A. N. S., pencil	25
Butler, Gen. B. F., L. S.	1 50
Collins, Wilkie, A. N. S.	1 00
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King, Horatio, A. N. S.	50
Long, john D., A. N. S.	50
Luce, S. B., Rear-Admiral, L. S.	1 00
Lee, Gen. Fitz Hugh, L. S.	1 00
Livermore, Mrs. Mary A., A. L. S.	75
Lossing, Benson J., A. L. S.	1 00
Longstreet, Gen. James, A. N. S.	1 50
Lamb, Martha J., A. N. S.	30
Logan, Gen. John A., L. S.	1 00
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Mahone, Gen. Wm., A. L. S.	50
Monroe, James, President, L. S.	4 00
Porter, Gen. Fitz John, L. S.	1 00
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Porter, Admiral, D. D., L. S.	1 00
Richardson, Wm. A. Chief Justice, L. S.	50
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Rand, Rev. Edward A., A. L. S.	50
Schenck, Gen. Robert C., A. L. S.	1 00
Sherman, Gen. W. T., A. L. S.	1 00
Trowbridge, J. T., Sentiment Signed	30
Tucker, Henry St. George, A. L. S., torn	50
Verne, Jules, A. N. S., on card	1 00
Wise, Gen. Henry A., A. L. S.	1 50
Whittier, John G., A. N. S.	1 00
Winthrop, Robert C., A. L. S.	75
Warren, Gen. G. K., A. L. S.	4 00
Wright, Gen. Marcus J., A. L. S.	30
Waite, M. R., Chief justice, L. S.	50

S. H. Calhoun Jr.
Nebraska City, Nebr

THE AUTOGRAPH.

S. H. Calhoun, Jr., Editor and Publisher.

The only paper in the world devoted exclusively to the interests of autograph collecting.

Published at Nebraska City, Nebraska. on the first of every month.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:—25 cents per annum, in advance.

ADVERTISING RATES:—5 cents per line.

	1 mo	2 mo's.	3 mo's.
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Editorial notices 3 cents per line.

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☞ Advertisements must be paid for in advance.

The exceedingly low price at which they are inserted, makes it impossible to keep open accounts.

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All are invited to contribute.

Address all communications to

S. H. CALHOUN, JR.,
NEBRASKA CITY, NEBRASKA.

Entered at Nebraska City post office as second class mail matter.

NEW YORK AGENT.

Mr. Arthur Levy, 344 E. 120th Street, New York ity, is authorized to receive subscriptions and advertisements for THE AUTOGRAPH.

This month we give a splendid likeness of Mr. A. E. Allen of Trenton, who is rapidly coming to the front as a prominent autograph collector.

The person who would mutilate a valuable letter by cutting off the signature is forever exiled from the good opinion of intelligent collectors.

Advertisers should not lose sight of the fact that an "ad" on our cover page will bring their name prominently before the very class of customers they wish to reach. We want your encouragement, without, we cannot succeed, with, we can and will.

Since our last issue we have received letters from just twelve collectors who attempted a collection and after a few months gave it up. Each one have signified their desire to re-enter the list of enthusiastic collectors.

There is a National Philatelic Association and National Association of nearly every branch of collecting except that of autographs. Why can't we have a national autograph society. We will soon publish the views of some of our prominent collectors on the subject. By all means let this be encouraged.

Unless a certain fairly well known and seemingly large autograph firm liquidates the advertising bill we have against them, we shall have an excellent opportunity to open our "fraud" column next month.

We are informed that one of the large dealers in the east has circulated the report that our fifth monthly bargain was taken from their lists and the prices doubled. —Of that modern George Washington we would say, he has been telling what is absolutely false.—By the way, the said dealer is now owing this paper for an advertisement.

We find that the duties incumbrent on us as editor and publisher of this paper, will seriously conflict with our other duties for the next six months. Therefore, if there is any of the fraternity who desire to assume the responsibility of issuing THE AUTOGRAPH for that period or for good, we would like to hear from them, the only conditions we would impose is that the paper be issued regularly. If there is not, we will have to ask the indulgence of our patrons if part of the numbers are late or not up to the standard of the previous ones. We are sorry this should occur just as we complete Vol. I. and contemplating enlargement, but it cannot be otherwise, but new proprietor or not "The Autograph" will continue to come twelve times a year.

Our Contemporaries

The Archivist, a new autograph monthly from across the ocean, has appeared; it comes from London and has S. J. Davey, the big London dealer at the helm.

The Calmar Exchange has given place to the United States Philatelist, which will be regularly issued hereafter by Mr. Scott, who gaurantees a circulation of 2000 copies to wide awake collectors.

We notice that our little request for regular exchanges has elicited a response from more than we expected it would. Keep them up, we want them regular or not at all.

Several new exchanges greet us this month, but neither time nor space will allow us to give extended notices, suffice to say we are much obliged.

We have twice been urged to join the N. A. P. A., but have declined so far, and the principal reason for doing so was, that the object of the association seems to be in doubt. Is it to villify and publish unfriendly remarks about contemporaries? nine out of ten seems to think that is what they joined for. "Fair criticism is better than faint praise," but month after month to publish insulting remarks about some amateur, who does not happen to meet with your approval on all subjects, is disgusting, and no doubt, there are many who are holding back for this same reason.

Exchanger's Directory.

Under this heading we will pubsh the names and addresses of ubscribers who have autographs or exchange, free. Non-subscriers will be charged 25c for each rsertion.

Geo. F. Heath, Monroe, Mich.

Warren Penwell, Pana, Ill.

H. L. Sheldon, Middleburg, Vt.

Robert Dulk, 515 Sixth St., New York City.

M. S. O'Donnell, Malden, Mass.

It is said that Dr. Holmes uses the Pedantic Monthly for a paper weight. The editor of the Century Magazine can read three war papers in seven minutes with his eyes shut. The two jokes that Noah had with him in the ark will shortly appear, suitably illustrated, in the editor's drawer department of Harper's Monthly. Some excitement was caused the other day in Boston by the announcement that Mr. Howells was in a critical condition, but when it was remembered that it is Mr. Howell's professional duty to be so, prayers of thanks were offered up because his state was not hyper - critical. Frank R. Stockton writes with a stub pen. Edgar Fawcett writes with a lead-pencil and an eraser. His best work is done with the eraser. Charles Egbert Craddock writes with the feather end of a quill. Robert Browning has a pet spider that does all his writing for him.—Life.

THE AUTOGRAPH one year (12 numbers) and the privilege of the exchange department for twenty five cents silver.

There are no rounds of drinks in the ladder of success.—Puck.

POPULAR SAYINGS FROM POPE.

Shoot folly as it flies.

Lo, the poor Indian.

Whatever is, is right.

Damn with faint praise.

Order is Heaven's first law.

Guide, philosopher and friend.

Die of a rose in aromatic pain.

Breaking a butterfly upon a wheel.

To err is human, to forgive divine.

Mistress of herself, though China fall.

Honor and fame from no condition rise.

Look through nature up to nature's God.

The proper study of mankind is man.

The feast of reason and the flow of soul.

Man never is, but always to be blest.

Pleased with a rattle, tickled with a straw.

A little learning is a dangerous thing.

The United States Philatelist.

An 8 page and cover Monthly. Devoted to Philately; 25 cents a year. Exchange column free to subscribers. Monthly circulation 2000. Advertising rates furnished on application Specimen copies 2 cents; none free. Address S. C. Scott, Lock Box 11, Calmar, Iowa.

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—MONTHLY.—

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ANGUS C. SMITH,
EDITOR & PUBLISHER,
Vineland, N. J

THE AUTOGRAPH.

Devoted to the Interests of Autograph Collecting.

VOL. 1. NEBRASKA CITY, NEBRASKA, JUNE, 1888. NO. 12.

A NEW MANIA OVER BOOKS.

A phase of bibliomania which has recently developed itself to a high degree is the art—a seductive art, it is called—of privately illustrating books. "Privately illustrating" is the technical term in common use. To illustrate the craze let us suppose that the person affected has a sketch of the life of an eminent author unbound and in single sheets. Before sending it to the binder he hunts up a portrait of the author for a frontispiece. In his search he comes across different portraits of the man, illustrating his life from boyhood up to old age. Then he finds a print of his birthplace and his library, and finally a few of his contemporaries who are mentioned in the text of his book. He secures them all. But they are not of a uniform size. Many are too large and others too small for the leaves. To cut down the former is a simple matter, but a professional inlayer must remedy the defect in the smaller prints. Perhaps in preference to cutting down any of the prints the maniac (still "biblio" of course) will have the book itself built up, leaf by leaf, along with the smaller prints. The aggregate expense, in any event, is considerable, but it is seldom that the artist who planned the work regrets the cost after he has received his book and prints built up and cut down, and bound in volumes. It is a substantial realization of an ideal.

Mr. E. C. Brown, of this city, is "privately illustrating" the "Campaigns of the Civil War," published by the Scribners, but in addition to prints and portraits he autograph letters or official orders from the pens of nearly all of the prominent characters in the history, which are to be distributed through and bound in the work. Many of the letters are historic and few are uninteresting. The most valuable communication in the collection is a despatch from Gen. Grant to the capital, sent in 1864, and the characteristic answer of President Lincoln. These are the documents:

[Time received—Received in cipher, 2 A. M. 15th.]

UNITED STATES MILITARY TELEGRAPH,
WAR DEPARTMENT,
Bermuda Hundred, June 14, 1864—1:30 P. M.

Maj. Gen. H. W. Halleck, Chief of Staff:

Our forces will commence crossing the James river to-day. The enemy show no signs of yet having brought troops to south side of Richmond.

I will have Petersburg secured, if possible, before they get there in much force. Our movements from Cold Harbor to the James river has been made with great celerity, and so far without loss or accident.

U. S. GRANT, Lt.-Gen'l.

United States Military Telegraph,
War Department,
Washington, June 15, 1864.

Lieut.-Gen. Grant, Headquarters A. P.:

Have just rec'd your despatch of 1 P. M. yesterday. I begin to see it. You will succeed. God bless you all.

A. Lincoln.

Mr. Brown has tried in vain to procure any of Gen. Lee's official documents bearing his signature. He has his autograph, however, attached to a graduate's diploma in the Virginia School of Moral Philosophy, of which Gen. Lee was President. The autograph is valuable and was presented to Mr. Brown by G. W. C. Lee, with a letter in which he says that it is all he has except a few signatures cut from bank checks. The few letters which Gen. Lee wrote are in possession of the Southern Historical Society.

The following letter of Garfield's to Gov. Dennison is written on a leaf cut from the former's note-book. It is evidently a copy which the writer reserved of the original. It was presented to the present owner by the widow of its author:

Columbus, April 17, 1884.

Gov Dennison:

Dear Sir:, I hereby tender to you my services for any position in the military organization of the State to which you may see fit to appoint me.

Very respectfully,

J. A. GARFIELD.

On the back of the memorandum is a list of Portage County township committee, indicating that Garfield was even in those early days interested in politics.

The document next presented was extensively circulated as Republican campaign literature when Hayes ran for President. It is self-explanatory:

(Private.) Camp of Sheridan's Army, near Charleston, Aug. 24, 1884.

Friend S.: Your favor of the 7th came to hand on Monday. It was the first I had heard of the doings of the Second District Convention. My thanks for your attention and assistance in the premises. I care very little about being a candidate, but having consented to the use os my name I preferred to succeed. Your suggestion about getting a leave of absence to take the stump was certainly made without reflection. An officer fit for duty who at this crisis would abandon his post to electioneer for a seat in Congress ought to be scalped. You may feel perfectly sure I shall do no such thing. We are, and for two weeks past have been in the immediate presence of a large rebel army under Gen. Early. We have skirmishing and small affairs constantly. I am not posted in the policy deemed wise at Headquarters, and can't guess as to the prospect of a general engagement.

The condition of the army is good and improving. I suspect the enemy is shifting around us towards the Potomac. If they cross we shall certainly have an early meeting. Sincerely, R. B. Hayes.

William Henry Smith, Cincinnati.

It is suggested of the above letter that, notwithstanding it was marked "private," it was intended to be used as campaign matter during the year it was written. The tone of a portion of it certainly appears rather severe when looked at in the light of a friendly communication

In the latter part of the winter of 1864—65 the engineers attached to the Southern forces critised the condition of things about Richmond. Gen. Lee wrote to Longstreet about it, and in reply received the following peculiar letter written in a very peculiar scrawl:

Headquarters, Front of Richmond, Feb. 10, 1865.

Gen. R. E. Lee:

The line four pickets is liable to the objection reported by our engineers to about the extent of all other picket lines. I don't remember that I ever saw one that could not be taken by assault, and if the enemy is allowed to hold them he can throw up a defensive line during the night. The particular part of my line that you refer to has some advantages that are unusual: First, if the enemy should get there he will be commanded by the fire from our parapets and the tops of our bomb proofs; second, we could open a reverse and laterel fire upon him after he got into this new position; third, I can't see how he could possibly remain there; fourth, I don't think he could get away. * * * It has one disadvantage that is common to all military positions, that is, when the fight occurs some one is apt to be hurt, otherwise I think the position comfortable. I have thought the position so strong at the point objected to by the engineers that I have been urging Gen. G. W. C. Lee to hurry the work on his bomb-proofs as much as possible in order that I may serve the enemy the trick that the engineers apprehend that he is about to serve me. The men are so much exposed along that part of the line while at work that I am anxious to finish the bomb-proofs before we begin to fire. I remain, General, most respectfully your obedient servant,

James Longstreet, Lt.-Gen'l.

The autograph of Drake De Kay appears in course but graceful letters over an inch high, subscribed to a military pass which is in itself a valuable relic: The pass reads:

Headquarters Military Department of Washington, 14 July, 1861.

Pass Jas. Barker, 2 days on the Bridges and within the lines.

By order of Gen'l Mansfield, commanding.

(Over) Drake De Kay, Aide-deCamp.

The reverse side of the pass contains the following sanguinary statement:

It is understood that the within named and subscriber accepts this pass on his word of honor that he is and will be ever loyal to the United States; and if hereafter found in arms against the Union, or in any way aiding the enemies, the penalty will be death.

For an autograph of Gen. Ewell the collector sent to Col. Campbell Brown, his former chief of staff, and received the following, clipped from a letter to the donor.

Respects to family, including Lucius. Yours, &c.,
R. S. Ewell.

Col. Brown inclosed a letter with the autographs in which he says: "I have sought in vain for a letter signed by Gen. Ewell officially. Of such I had very few and the proved to be all of historical importance. I wish that I could with propriety send you some of his more playful letters, for a strong and rich vein of humor runs through most of them." The Lucius referred to by Gen. Ewell was, at the time of writing, a newly named infant, son of Col. Brown.

Gen. H. Morgan, known as "Brigadier" Morgan, the rebel raider, is represented in the collection by his signature only, written below the word 'Respectfully." It was contributed by his daughter, Miss Johnnie Morgan, who is living at Lebanon, Tenn.

Present me respectfully to Mrs. W. and kiss the children for me. Very truly yours, Geo. G. Meade.

The above are the closing lines of a letter written by the subscriber to ex-Gov. Wise while he was in Congress. From the full text of the letter it appears that the writer was in danger of being removed from certain lighthouse duty which was agreeable to him by a certain Colonel. He wished to make a three-concrete bargain with Wise and the Colonel by which the latter would leave him alone, and Wise would, in consideration therefor, appoint the Colonel's son to a position at West Point. The signature of N. P. Banks appears attached to a lette addressed to a Boston caterer, in which he regrets his inability to pay a debt of five years standing and tries to explain that he is not living extravagantly. The letter is dated Nov. 6, 1864, and is signed "N. P. Banks, M. G. C." the three capital letters standing for "Major General Commanding."

Abraham Lincoln.

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Hamlin, Hannibal, Vice-President. N. S.	50
Higginson, T. W., A. P. C. S.	30
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Johnston, Gen. J. E., A. L. S.	1 00
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Long, john D., A. N. S.	50
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Porter, Admiral, D. D., L. S.	1 00
Richardson, Wm. A. Chief Justice, L. S.	50
Regan, John H., Senator, A. N. S.	50
Rand, Rev. Edward A., A. L. S.	50
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NEBRASKA CITY, NEBRASKA.

Entered at Nebraska City post office as second class mail matter.

NEW YORK AGENT.

Mr. Arthur Levy, 314 E. 120th Street, New York ity, is authorized to receive subscriptions and advertisements for THE AUTOGRAPH.

The next issue will be a sort of turning point in autograph journalism—with it we will commence the second volume of our literary existence and looking back over the path we have trodden, we do not see a single step that has been taken for which we need offer an apology. Month after month the paper was issued, when there was not sufficient pecuniary encouragement to print one page. It will be continued now with the hope that the few hundred autograph collectors in this country will appreciate the effort we have made and are making to advance the interests of autograph collecting. In the future "The Autograph" will be eight, two column pages and cover, filled with original matter of interest to our patrons. One feature we reserved for the new volume was the portraits of the "doomed dozen," several have absolutely refused, but we may possibly get Mr. C. F. Gunther's in time for the first number. Look out for it but don't get impatient, if it is a week or so late.

We had hoped that the time would never come, when we should be compelled to sully the pages of "The Autograph" by denouncing any one, but the time has come and can be no longer delayed. Some months ago Burns & Son sent us copy for a half column "ad," stating that it should be inserted and bill would be paid on presentation, stipulating no length of time for "ad" to run. It was inserted twice and we are whistling for the pay for the second insertion. Notice to discontinue not being received until the second insertion had been printed. For a long time no answer was received to our requests for a settlement, until along came the reply, that they would settle only in autographs. Upon our refusal to accept autographs, they wrote an insulting reply, stating we were frauds and they would take pains to let people know it. They have not paid us and they also owe, or did owe up to three weeks ago, The Collector for a similar advertisement. Our inquiries have elicited the fact, that they do no business to speak of only acting as agents of S. J. Davey with probably a hundred dollar stock of their own Parties claiming to be autograph dealers and who refuse to pay their honest debts, should be left distinctly alone, they are not to be relied upon. If they are in need of charity, we cheerfully donate the amount they owe us, and in case of their not remitting, will take ihat to be the case.

Let Burns & Son, 744 Broadway, New York, alone.

The change of form and enlargement next month will necessitate more contributions. Let every one who will do so, contribute an article; we want something original. You need not be a polished orator or experienced author in order to do this; write in your own language and style and it will be more appreciated than to copy some unnatural form of some one else. This is a special invitation to you to contribute. Will you do it?

Lorraine & Co. have sold their entire stock of autographs to Mr. Didier of Baltimore, who will conduct the business hereafter. Mr. Didier is thoroughly reliable and to our personal knowledge, is the cheapest dealer in A. L. S. in the East. Watch for his "ad" next month.

Copies of rare letters would be very acceptable and generally prove very interesting. We will print any sent and be glad to do so.

Our Contemporaries

The editor of this paper is now full fledged member of the W. A. P. A. and if all things "turn out as I kalkilated they weould," will cast his first ballot at the Cincinnati convention. As yet we have no choice for any of the offices, not knowing anything of any the candidates and will have to be guided by older hands.

For an all around collector journal the "Science Observer" is in foremost ranks.

The World of Nature and Curi osity Shop are a couple of new ex changes, hailing from the extremes of the United States—California and New England.

If Mr. Woolen has any aspirations in the direction of the N. A. P. A Presidency, he had better suppress those miserable wood cuts that several papers are publishing.

The biographical sketch of Louis Agassiz byGeo. F. Whittemore in the May issue of Agassiz Companion, is one of the finest things of the kind it has been our province to read.

The fact that Nebraska will have the honor of being the home of the next N. A. P. A. President in the person of F. D. Woolen is becoming more and more apparent.

The N. A. P. A. could go farther and fare worse.

The initial number of the U. S. Philatelist has appeared and is well gotten up, neatly printed and ably conducted. Mr. S. C. Scott, the editor and publisher, is developing into quite a philatelist from the tone of his bright editorials.

Mr S. J. Davey, the London dealer, has issued a catalogue of letters that for elegant appearance and make-up as well as quantity and variety of material, surpasses anything hitherto issued in that line.

The Geologists Gazette has removed to Elkader, Iowa and issued the last number from there. It was a large and very readable magazine and the only thing to mar its evident enjoyment was the miserable quality of paper used.

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Wm. Evarts Benj has removed from 744 Broadway to 6 Astor Place, New York City.

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